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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 8, 2012

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**Schuetzte Plan To Make Michigan Safer:
Get Repeat Violent Criminals Off The Street**
*A.G. Presses Crime Plan at Senate Hearing to Institute
VO-4 Sentencing Reforms to Target Violent Repeat Offenders*

LANSING - Attorney General Bill Schuette today addressed the Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee regarding his proposal to take repeat violent offenders off the streets with the VO-4 plan to create a minimum 25-year sentence for violent criminals who have committed four felonies.

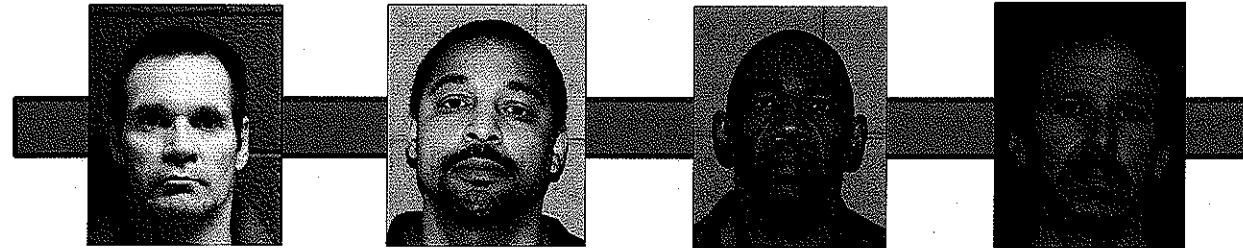
Schuette was joined at the committee hearing by Detroit Police Officer Arthur Matthews, former Livonia Chief of Police Robert Stevenson, Barry County Prosecutor Tom Evans, Saginaw County Prosecutor Mike Thomas, and representatives from the Police Officers Association of Michigan, Fraternal Order of Police and the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan.

"The first step toward breaking the cycle of crime is to remove the most violent repeat offenders from our streets," said Schuette. "A disproportionate percentage of crime is committed by a small group of hardened criminals. The VO-4 sentencing reform gives law enforcement an important tool to stop the worst of the worst from repeatedly threatening our communities and undermining public safety."

Senate Bill 1109, introduced by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge), would implement the VO-4 (Violent Offense-Fourth Felony) sentencing reform by strengthening Michigan's Habitualization Law (MCL 769.12). The legislation targets the worst repeat violent offenders by establishing a minimum prison sentence of at least 25 years for criminals convicted of a serious violent crime after already being convicted of any three prior felony convictions. The passage of VO-4 would result in the imprisonment of violent repeat offenders in order to stop the damaging and expensive repeat violent crimes that negatively impact Michigan families.

During his testimony, Schuette referenced the cases of four convicted murderers with long rap sheets who would have been behind bars had the tougher VO-4 sentencing provision been in place at the time of their fourth felony conviction.

Schuette highlighted the case of Terry Bowling, 49, who was recently convicted of second degree murder and other crimes for his role in a home invasion that resulted in Livonia Police Officer



Terry Bowling

Derrick Smith

Richard Riddle

Paul Pozniak

VO-4: STOP REPEAT VIOLENT OFFENDERS

It is time to take the worst repeat violent offenders off our streets, so they can no longer wreak havoc on our communities.

- **Strengthen Michigan's Habitual Offender Law** to ensure repeat violent offenders are kept where they belong: behind bars.
- Hardened criminals with three prior felonies would receive a **minimum 25-year sentence** when convicted of an additional serious violent crime, stopping the pattern of violence in its tracks.
- Under the VO-4 legislation, the 25-year minimum **sentence would kick in on the violent offender's fourth felony conviction** in cases when the offender is classified as a 4th Habitual Offender and convicted of a serious violent offense.
- Examples of qualifying crimes include: 2nd Degree Murder; Attempted Murder; Assault with Intent to Murder; Criminal Sexual Conduct (1st, 2nd, 3rd Degree); Carjacking; and Kidnapping.

REAL THREATS POSED BY REPEAT OFFENDERS

With VO-4 in place, these convicted murderers would have been behind bars instead of committing murder in our communities:

- **Terry Bowling:** Convicted of 2nd Degree Murder and other crimes for a home invasion that resulted in the death of Livonia Police Officer Larry Nehasil. Prior Record: 6 felonies, 9 misdemeanors.
- **Derrick Smith:** Convicted of 1st Degree Murder, Torture. Prior Record: 12 felonies.
- **Richard Riddle:** Convicted of 2nd Degree Murder. Prior Record: 8 felonies.
- **Paul Pozniak:** Convicted of 1st Degree Murder. Prior Record: 12 felonies.

